MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): May I know whether any other educational institution or public office had work on the 5th of Makaram 1109?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): Yes, a few had. I think I should explain the position. The Colleges, for example, have their own holidays. They do not have the same holidays as the other educational institutions. The aided institutions also have their own holidays. They make the list of their own holidays and they are approved by the Department from time to time. Therefore, the holidays enjoyed by the Colleges, the aided institutions and the Departmental institutions cannot coincide.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): May I know whether any educational institution or public office in the State works either on Christmas or Onam holidays?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): I do not think that on Christmas day any school works. But during part of the Onam holidays, some schools work.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): May I know whether the member is aware that Ramzan is as important to Muslims as Christmas and Onam to the Christians and Hindus respectively?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): Yes, I am.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): May I know the total number of Muslim holidays sanctioned by Government?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): I think it is two.

PRESIDENT: That question does not arise.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): Will the Government be pleased to take the necessary action to enforce the observance of at least these two Mahomedan holidays?

MR R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, am I to understand that in schools in which there are no Mahomedan pupils or teachers this rule should be forced to be observed?

War Service men in the Public Works Department.

194. ***MR. M. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Karunagapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are giving any special consideration to War Service men when promotions are recommended; and

(*b*) if so, whether War Service men in the Public Works Department do receive such a favour?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) No. But they enjoy the benefit of the concessions granted to them in the matter of counting their periods of service on foreign duty for promotion, leave, increment, etc.

(*b*) Does not arise.

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MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I know from the member whether there is any special consideration shown to War Service men in the matter of appointments?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Except the concessions I have mentioned, there is none whatever.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I know whether instructions have been issued by Government to the Land Revenue Commissioner to appoint one Mr. V. R. Parameswaran Nair?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have no information at present I claim notice.

Cocoanut Industries in Travancore.

195. ✻**MR. M. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Karunagapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to state.

(*a*) whether the Industrial Chemist was deputed to Ceylon to attend the Cocoanut Exhibition at Colombo;

(*b*) if so, whether he was asked to submit a report suggesting improvements adaptable to the cocoanut industries in Travancore;

(*c*) whether he has submitted a report;

(*d*) if so, what action the Government are taking on the report; and

(*e*) whether the report will be published for public information?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The report is under consideration.

(*e*) This will be considered after Government have dealt with the report.

Board of Industries.

196. ✻**MR. G. NILAKANTAN** (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state why the creation of the Board of Industries, as contemplated by Section 3 of the State-Aid to Industries Regulation, is being delayed?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): The matter is engaging the attention of Government.

Appointment of Sirkar Vakils.

197. ✻**MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil II*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they adopt any principle in the appointment of Sirkar Vakils?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*): May I know the number of Sirkar Vakils appointed this year?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I think 3 Sirkar Vakils have been appointed this year.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*): May I know whether these 3 Sirkar Vakils are in service now?

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